***A Farewell to Arms*: Sample Passage Analysis**

In *A Farewell to Arms*, Hemingway uses the relationship between Frederic Henry and Catherine Barkley to assert his opinion of the passionate but oftentimes illusory nature of both love and religion. Hemingway establishes this by blending and confusing the two devotions in the romantic interactions and conversation between these two characters. In Chapter XVIII, for example, Frederic and Catherine engage in the following conversation that demonstrates Catherine’s self-imposed devotion to Frederic:

You see, darling, [marriage] would mean everything to me if I had any religion. But I haven’t any religion.

You gave me the Saint Anthony.

That was for luck. Some one gave it to me.

Then nothing worries you?

Only being sent away from you. You’re my religion. You’re all I’ve got. (116)

Here, the dialogue that Hemingway gives to Frederic and Catherine reveals, as it often does in his writing, much more about his characters and their inner feelings than any direct narration could. In this case, we see that Catherine does not believe in any traditional religion (she says herself that “I haven’t any religion”), a fact that is further supported by her refusal to see the Saint Anthony medal in any religious context (“That was for luck”). Religious ideals and symbols have lost all meaning for Catherine, likely because of her disillusionment with the war and what it has robbed her of: her fiancée and her previous love. Now that she has found Frederic, however, she has found what she believes to be her new meaning: a new lover, a new potential husband, and a new opportunity to complete the path to marriage and love that the war previously cut short. For Catherine, love and devotion to Frederic is her religion; it’s where she attempts to find meaning in her war-torn world. Where others might look to God in an attempt to make sense of their lives, she turns to Frederic (incidentally, not all that reliable of a source). Unfortunately, we as readers cannot help but wonder if allowing herself to fall for another soldier will not end up with a similar tragic result.